

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office.

Drawings:

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed on October 16, 2003 have been accepted.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Finally, Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning the Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed on July 1, 2003, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Abstract:

Applicant has amended the Abstract as shown in the previous section to place the Abstract more in accordance with USPTO guidelines.

Claim Amendments:

Applicant has amended the claims as shown in the previous section to clarify the claims. Applicant notes that the above referenced claim amendments have been made to merely clarify the claimed invention and are not intended to narrow the original scope or spirit of the claims in any way.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003-0179772 to Niklasson. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

Niklasson discloses a system and method for exchanging information between different communication networks. Specifically, as shown in Figure 1, Niklasson allows a mobile telephone network 1 to communicate with a fixed network 2 or the internet 3, via the system 700. The system includes some data transmission units 310, 320, and 330, routers 410 and 420, a data unit 510 and a computer 610.

The Niklasson system receives information from one of the communication networks (i.e. the internet 3) and converts the data to into a system internal format (for the system 700). The converted data is transmitted to a service processing unit, in which the data is processed, and then the data is converted into a format for the target network (i.e. the mobile network 1) and transmitted to the network. See Paragraphs 0011, 0012.

Thus, the system 700 is used to allow one network (the mobile network 1) to communicate with another network (the internet 3), by converting the data from any one of the networks into a system internal data format, and then into the format to be transmitted to the receiving network.

However, the present invention is directed to communications internal within a cellular or mobile communication system, which is different than the Niklasson reference. Specifically, the

present invention is directed to a “method for providing service management to network elements of a communication network” and the network elements communicate with an Operation and Maintenance Center of the communication network. This is contrary to the teachings of Niklasson which is directed to the broader aspect of having a cellular communication system communicating with other types of networks (i.e. the internet).

However, there is no disclosure of having any of the components (in Niklasson) placed within a cellular network, as in the claimed invention. In fact, as disclosed in paragraphs 0028 and 0030, Niklasson indicates that the relative components of the system can and should be located remotely from any of the networks 1, 2, or 3.

Because of at least this distinction, Niklasson has little relevance to the present application.

Specifically, contrary to any assertions made by the Examiner, Niklasson fails to disclose a method for providing service management to network elements of a communication network where the network elements communicate with an Operation and Maintenance Center of the communication network.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Niklasson fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, in particular the claimed etching adjustment layer. Therefore, Niklasson fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of the above claims.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number: 10/609,633

Our Ref: Q75615
Art Unit: 2687

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

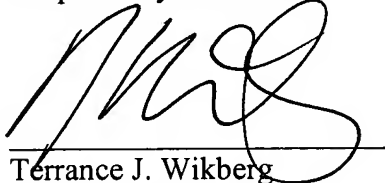
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